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Message from the Chairperson

Dear SWLSB Stakeholders,

This past year has been a period of growth and achievement for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). As we look back on the 2022-2023 school year, we are proud to see how our collective efforts have brought much success across our schools and centres.

We are proud to report that our graduation and qualification rate has increased to 88.3%. This progress is encouraging as it means we are on track to reach our target of 89.9% by 2027. The closer we get to this target, the more challenging it is, but we are confident that we will achieve it.

In 2022-2023 we continued addressing our growing student population in the Laurentians and Lanaudière regions. Growth is excellent news for the English community, however, with it comes the need for more space.

In the Laurentians, we had a pressing need for additional space at Laurentia Elementary School in Saint-Jérôme. Since 2017, its student population has been growing. The modular classrooms installed were still not sufficient to meet the needs of the newly added groups. Consequently, we leased and renovated a building adjacent to Laurentia Elementary School to create 3 additional classrooms, an office for professionals and additional parking. Our teams worked tirelessly during the year to make sure the new building was ready for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. This expansion was needed to ensure our students had an optimal learning environment with enough space.

Overcrowding in our Lanaudière elementary schools was another major focus. In April 2023, we began building a new elementary school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides on land we acquired in May 2022. This new school will have a capacity of 384 students, 16 classrooms, 8 collaborative rooms, 1 library, 2 sensory rooms, a double gymnasium, and so much more.

This multimillion-dollar project required two public calls to tender due to the initial bids exceeding the budget authorized by the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ). This situation was primarily due to the budget allocation being established pre-COVID, without accounting for the unprecedented hike in construction costs that followed. The first tender was quoted at \$29,114,000, significantly over the government-authorized \$22,277,540. After careful deliberation and a commitment to fiscal responsibility, we managed to secure a more favourable bid of \$26,955,000 in the second tender, which was approved by the MEQ.

In parallel to the tendering process, in November, we conducted a town hall meeting to present the attendance zone for the new school. Stakeholders of the six schools impacted by rezoning, namely Joliette, Pinewood, Franklin Hill, Laurentia, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and Rawdon Elementary Schools, were consulted. A public consultation which ended on March 17, 2023, took place to establish the school attendance zone. This collaborative effort, which ensured a well-thought-out approach to the rezoning, led to the adoption of a final school attendance zone at the Council meeting held on June 21, 2023.

Another major undertaking was defining the new Commitment to Success Plan (CTSP). The CTSP working table comprised of school, centre, and department administrators was created to develop a plan that was not only aligned with the Ministry's Strategic Plan but also catered to the needs of our students.

Another initiative of the Council we are proud of is the creation of the Central Students' Committee. This was the second year of this committee. Led by the chair, commissioner James Di Sano, it included commissioners Olivia Landry, Vincent Cammisano, and

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Overview



Vision and Mission

Vision

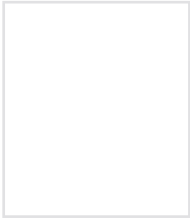
The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board believes that all students deserve its complete commitment to their success.

Mission

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's mission is to provide engaging and innovative learning where everyone achieves success and well-being. To accomplish its mission the school board:

- Supports student success
- Prepares students for the future
- Offers equitable and varied educational options

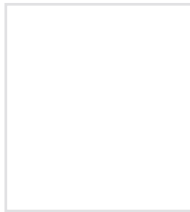
Council of Commissioners



Paolo Galati*
Chairperson



Donna Anber*
Electoral Division 1



Karla Abraham Di Francesco
Electoral Division 2



Melissa Wall
Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Division 3



Olivia Landry*
Electoral Division 4



Bob Pellerin*
Alternate Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Division 5



Barbara Barrasso*
Electoral Division 6

James Di Sano*
Electoral Division 7



Vincent Cammisano
Electoral Division 8



Anick Brunet
Electoral Division 9



Tara Anderson*
Parent Commissioner
Elementary



Chloée Alary
Parent Commissioner
Secondary



Stéphane Henley
Parent Commissioner
Students with Special Needs



*Members of the Executive Committee

2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan

The first version of the 2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP) was adopted by the Council of Commissioners on June 27, 2018.

In the preparation stages, students, parents, staff, governing board members, alumni and community stakeholders, including elected officials, were consulted on the direction and orientations that should be the focus of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Following approval by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ), the final version of the plan was adopted by the Council on October 18, 2018.

The CTSP includes five orientations and five objectives (as illustrated below) aligned with those of the MEQ to ensure improved student success rates.

The 2022-2023 Annual Report focuses on the school board's results achieved in the fourth year of the 2018-2022 Commitment-to-Success Plan.

2022-2023 is the last year of the current CTSP. A new CTSP will be in place as of next year.

Council Celebrations 2022-2023

Recognizing Our Student and Artist!

OSEntreprendre Challenge 2023
Council of Commissioners' Meeting | May 31, 2023

Results in Achieving the MEQ Targets

OBJECTIVE 3:

By 2030, have 85% of students under the age of 20 obtain a first diploma (SSD or DVS), and 90% obtain a first diploma or qualification

At SWLSB, our focus is on maintaining and exceeding our reported graduation rate in 2021 (based on the 2014 cohort) of 88.1%. We continue to focus on the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in order to build a results-based culture at the school level. Teachers are encouraged to continue using formative and summative assessments as well as the practice of providing feedback to students so that they can improve their learning. We expect to see an increase in the success rate of the various subjects, resulting in an increased graduation rate.

RESULTS: The 2021 graduation rate of students under the age of 20 obtaining a first diploma or qualification (based on the cohort of students entering Secondary 1 in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board by September 30, 2014) is 88.1%. This current graduation rate has been stable over the past two years. The current results indicate that we have attained and surpassed our 2022 graduation rate target of 88.0%.

Improve the graduation and qualification rate (7-year cohort)

	Québec				Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board			
	Baseline 2015 (2008 cohort)	Results 2021 (2014 cohort)	Target 2022	Target 2030	Baseline 2015 (2008 cohort)	Results 2021 (2014 cohort)	Target 2022	Target 2030
Students under 20 who obtain a first diploma or qualification	78.8%	84.0%	84.0%	85.0%	82.8%	88.1%	88.0%	90.0%

Source: Rapport D... a... e... a f ca... a c... c a e a k ec... da e, édition 2022 (tableau 1).

Results in Achieving the MEQ Targets

OBJECTIVE 4:

By 2030, increase to 90% the success rate on the composition component of the Elementary 6 (Cycle 3, Year 2) language of instruction ministerial examination in the public system

The SWLSB offers students an English education and a bilingual future. Our Secondary 5 English Language Arts and French Second Language subjects continue to yield results in the 90 percentiles. Measured at the end of Cycle 3, we maintain high results in both languages.

Supporting English and French language teaching and learning and providing early interventions will help us maintain the current course success rates. SWLSB continues to promote collaboration between language teachers at all levels in order to ensure our schools produce bilingual students.

RESULTS: The 2022 data on the ELA written competency reveals that we have exceeded our 2030 target of 90% by 4% points.

We continue to track the success rates of written and interaction components in both ELA and FSL, and remain committed to promoting the highest levels of linguistic competence in both languages.

Improve and/or maintain the first- and second-language competencies of our students					
	Québec		Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board		
	Baseline 2016	Target 2022	Baseline 2016	Results 2022	Target 2022
Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Reading Competency - MEQ exam	n/a	n/a	90.1%	89.0%	92.5%
Grade 6 English Language Arts (ELA) Writing Competency - MEQ exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	94.0%	94.0%
Grade 6 Français Langue Seconde, programme de base (FLS) Reading Competency - SWLSB exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	81.0%	95.0%
Grade 6 Français Langue Seconde, programme de base (FLS) Interaction Competency - SWLSB exam	n/a	n/a	94.0%	88.0%	95.0%

Source: SWLSB Lumix data retrieved November 20, 2023.

Results in Achieving the MEQ Targets

OBJECTIVE 5:

By 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition

The age and condition of many of our buildings represent a challenge for providing a 21st century learning environment. Moreover, universal design principles were not considered in 20th century building and infrastructure design. Upgrades to our buildings continue to take place annually based on the available funding.

To bring our schools and centres up to the satisfactory level of the Facility Condition Index, the Material Resources and Transportation Department continues to work diligently to carry out many projects such as roofing, window replacement, brick pointing, foundation work, classroom renovations, washroom renovations and auditorium renovations.

Implemented in 2022, the new GIEES (Gestion des infrastructures de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur) system replaces the former ministerial system, SIMACS. All our buildings were inspected according to the new GIEES parameters and the results are currently under analysis.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view more before and after photos of construction and renovation projects.

Adult Education

With continued challenges resulting from a long pandemic, the Adult Education centres focused on learning and working environments that promoted health, safety and well-being.

Individual and group support was provided to students thanks to our professionals and local community organizations such as Travail de rue de l'île de Laval (TRIL).

We partnered with local organizations to reintroduce extracurricular activities and workshops such as the Lunch and Learn series in cooperation with Carrefour jeunesse-emploi, art therapy, yoga classes, photography classes, music lessons and financial series workshops.

Adult Education and Vocational Training



International Student Program

Youth Sector

We welcomed 23 international students registered in the youth sector from Brazil, Australia, Cambodia, Korea, Italy, China, Germany, Vietnam, Ghana and Sweden.

The international students were enrolled at the following schools:

- Laval Senior Academy
- Laval Junior Academy
- Rosemère High School
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary
- John F. Kennedy Elementary

Vocational Sector

In the vocational sector, we welcomed 60 new international students from India, Pakistan, Philippines, Colombia, China, Cameroon and Sri Lanka.

The international students were enrolled in the following programs:

- Computing Support
- Health Assistance and Nursing
- Carpentry
- Secretarial Studies
- Accounting

Summary

International student enrolment began recovering from the decline caused by the pandemic in previous years. In the youth sector, the number of students remained stable. In vocational training, the number of students tripled from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023. Most of our promotional efforts were put in the vocational training sector as trends showed a faster recovery in this sector.

Testimonials

"I continue to be impressed with the international students we host here at LSA. They not only excel academically, but get involved in student life, extracurricular activities, join sports teams and enrich our student body." Michael Ioannidis, Guidance Counselor at Laval Senior Academy.

"Although it was easy to make friends at school, I would suggest a buddy program for at least the first week of school. The guidance team and the international office team were very helpful all along." Georgia Edwards, international student from Australia at Laval Senior Academy.

"It was a great program. My teachers were amazing and very knowledgeable." Michelle Alcocer, international student from Mexico in the Health, Assistance and Nursing program at CDC Pont-Viau.

Business Training Services

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board offers customized training and coaching services to businesses across the Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière territories



The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with businesses, parents and schools to build partnerships and raise funds to give back to the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Since 2006, the Foundation has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in our schools and centres, and every year awards citizenship bursaries to graduating students in the youth and adult sectors. The money raised by the Foundation comes from two major fundraisers, one in February and one in June.

The Foundation, in partnership with the school board, also finances the annual Laurier Gala/Star Fest, an evening that recognizes more than 200 students in our school board and highlights the musical talents of over 20 students.

The profits from the two major fundraisers in 2022-2023 will help schools and centres build or enhance sensory rooms. A sensory room is a therapeutic safe space with a variety of equipment specifically designed to provide personalized sensory input to students with special needs or limited communication skills. The calming effects of such a room help them to focus on the present moment so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others.

In June 2023, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Ambassadors' Club was launched in support of our Foundation's vital initiatives. Members of the Ambassadors' Club have a shared passion for education and contribute significantly to our cause. Members' involvement can make a profound impact on our ability to further the legacy of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation and uphold its values of supporting education.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation looks forward to continuing its fundraising events which, with our Board of Directors' commitment, make a lasting difference.

Board of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation

President

Archie Cifelli

Treasurer

Steve Ceccolini

Members

Leslie Andradi • Harold Ashenmil • Donald Bergeron • Vincent Cammisano

James Di Sano • Nick Di Meo • Olivia Landry • David Paulozza

Sam Reda • Nathalie Rollin • Sunday Skoufaras • Ed Turchyniak

Non-voting members

Gaëlle Absolonne • Paolo Galati

Administration

Maxeen Jolin • Susan O'Keeffe

Ethics Commissioner and Student Ombudsman Reports

Ethics Commissioner

For the year ending June 30, 2023

Alternate Student Ombudsman

For the year ending June 30, 2023, the undersigned, in my capacity as alternate student ombudsman for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, did not handle any complaint referrals.

Montreal, August 23, 2023

Me Vincent Guida
Alternate Student Ombudsman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Finance Statement of Principle

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board allocates the resources at its disposal among its schools and centres in an equitable manner and in consideration of the social and economic disparities, the needs expressed by its institutions, existing partnerships and the Commitment-to-Success Plan. The school board reserves the amount determined necessary for its needs to administer the services entrusted to it by law and for the needs of its committees.

The school board establishes parameters for the equitable distribution of its resources that ensure services to students as required by the provisions of the *Education Act* and school board policy.

These parameters take into account the distinctive features of each school and centre. Allocations are built on a base and/or a per-student allocation adjusted in consideration of social and economic disparities.

The budgetary process encourages responsibility, accountability, innovation, creativity and transparency.

